

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission
And Training Room 2nd Floor
August 23, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Chairman Joseph D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Chairman Joseph F. D'Errico, Commissioners Walt Spader and David Monz, Chief Thomas McLoughlin

Absent: Commissioners Larry Lazaroff and Marc Calafiore, Deputy Chief Jonathan Mulhern

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the July 26, 2016 meeting, both regular and executive sessions. Commissioner Spader made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Monz seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for July 2016. The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Monz; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence

A thank you card was sent to Officer Jason Janosko thanking him for his assistance with an incident regarding a theft from vehicle.

Chairman's Report

Old business:

Chairman D'Errico had nothing to report for old business.

New business:

Chairman D'Errico mentioned an article in the paper recently which described the new middle school drug education program that was designed to help middle school students with the prevention of drug and alcohol use and other issues that today's youth faces. Commissioner Lazaroff along with Sergeant Matthew Falcon worked with Youth Services Director; Nancy Leddy, and Middle School Principal Phil Piazza to spearhead the program.

Chairman D'Errico inquired about the placement of repeaters in the middle and high schools. Repeaters allow Police and Fire personnel to communicate with dispatch while inside either of these buildings.

Chief explained that with the new radio system that we are looking at, a few changes will be made to make police headquarters the main transmit and receive for all radio transmissions and communications within both schools should be improved.

Chairman D'Errico stated that bids will be opening on September 6th for the body cameras. He explained that the bid calls for 55 cameras and said the State will reimburse the Police Department for the entire initial cost. Chairman said he would like to have a special meeting when the cameras are implemented so the Board can see how they work.

Chairman D'Errico commended Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Mulhern for their recent presentation at the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting earlier this month. Chief and Deputy gave a presentation on the new radio system project as well as a needs assessment for the renovations to Police Headquarters.

With nothing further, Chairman D'Errico handed the meeting over to Chief McLoughlin.

Chief McLoughlin reminded everyone that North Haven Public Schools will open on September 1st, and asked that everyone be cautious and aware of the added presence of children especially in the morning and afternoon hours at bus stops and crosswalks. Chief asked that motorists reduce speeds and also to anticipate that an oncoming school bus will likely be stopping where students are gathered.

Commissioner Monz asked if the results of the Whitney Ridge area traffic study conducted last year have been received yet. Chief commented that it has been over a year and he is still waiting for the results. Chief stated he will reach out to the traffic engineers tomorrow to see what the holdup is.

Budget

Chief reported the budget is right where it should be for this time of year.

Support Services/Traffic

Chief received a request for a “no outlet” sign and also a “slow children” sign on the corner Buckingham Lane and Hartford Turnpike. Chief explained that Buckingham Lane is a cul-de-sac with only six homes. Chief said he believes a “no outlet” sign would be appropriate and doesn't see the need for a slow child sign at this time.

The board agreed and Commissioner Spader made the motion to place a “no outlet” sign at the entrance to Buckingham Lane, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Monz. All were in favor.

Residents of Knollwood Road hold an annual block party event and have requested the road to be closed on September 4th for roughly six hours. Chief said he has thoroughly reviewed the request and confirmed the road closing will not affect any other streets in the area. Further Chief said that in the past, the department has provided barricades to accommodate the closing. Commissioner Monz commented that this is not a disruptive area and a good community event with no prior traffic problems or otherwise. Commissioner Spader made the motion to close Knollwood Road on September 4th for the six hours requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Monz. All were in favor.

Chief McLoughlin had no Planning and Zoning matters for this evenings meeting.

Professional Standards:

Chief advised the Board that the Department has reserved a seat at the Police Academy for Dec 28th.

Chief explained that funding for this seat starts January 1st, 2017. Chief advised the board that he will reach out to the Finance Department and ask if we can put the recruit on the books one month earlier. This seat was originally set for July of 2016, but due to budget cuts it was pushed back to December of this year. Chief stated that if we pass up the seat, we may not get another spot at the Police Academy until July of 2017.

As mentioned last month, the cutover to the new Next-Generation E-911 system was completed, but the system crashed on July 15th for a little over one hour. Chief has received word from AT & T that the root cause of the problem was a messaging application, a memory overload which shorted everything out. The problem has since been fixed and this should not be an issue in the future.

Uniformed Services/Patrol

A fair number of vehicles are still being entered and burglarized at night. Most of these vehicles are unlocked, with keys left in them. Chief explained that he has talked about public awareness at every meeting for the last year. Once again, Chief McLoughlin strongly urges everyone to lock their vehicle doors at night, and do not leave keys or valuables in plain sight. These larcenies could easily be deterred by locking doors. Also, Chief reminds residents that if you see something suspicious to call the Police Department.

Chief also stated that there have been a number of complaints regarding scam phone calls from persons claiming to be relatives asking for bail money, IRS scams that say you owe money and other monetary solicitations scams. Chief explained how recently a senior resident fell victim to a bail money scam. Chief said Officer John Gaspar did a great job in investigating and was able to get the resident his money back. The Investigative services department is following up on the case to identify the scammers. Chief reminded everyone that the IRS will never telephone you for money.

Recently the Department responded to another overdose in which Intranasal Naloxone (Narcan) was used to save the victim. Chief commended Officer Brandon Esterby for his skill in administering the drug. The overdose victim was nearly deceased, but the Narcan saved him.

Investigative Services:

Detectives have been busy over the past few weeks due to a number of untimely deaths.

Walter T Berniere Scholarship:

There were no scholarship requests this month.

Building and Equipment updates:

Chief explained that recently he and Deputy Mulhern presented a needs assessment for the public safety radio project and renovations to police headquarters at a Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting. Chief said the presentations were well received and the Department will move forward to a town meeting on September 19th. Chief said he hopes they can move this project to a referendum vote in mid to late October. Chief McLoughlin thanked the community for all of their support. Further, Chief McLoughlin wanted it to be clear that these are necessary, critical needs for public safety and not items that the department simply wants.

The bid is out for the body cameras with a closing date of September 6th. Chief said the state will reimburse the town for the initial purchase. However, moving forward this will be a recurring line item on the budget.

Body cameras are becoming an industry standard and a lot of the cost is due to the needed storage space to maintain certain records, as we have to follow the rules regarding record retention times.

Chief had nothing to report for executive session.

With nothing further, Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Monz, and seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor. The time was 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Monz, Vice Chairman

